AB 560 (Skinner)
Net Energy Metering

ISSUE

Net energy metering is a simple billing arrangement that exists in 44 states for customers using on-site renewable energy, such as rooftop solar power systems. This billing arrangement permits eligible customer-generators to offset retail electricity purchases with all of the electricity generated on-site. Over a 12 month period, a customer has to pay only for the net amount of electricity supplied by a utility over-and-above the amount of electricity generated by an on-site renewable energy system.

Net energy metering helps customers smooth out differences between variable on-site demand and intermittent on-site generation. In doing so, net metering improves the economics of installing a solar system by allowing surplus power generated by the systems to be fed onto the electric grid for the benefit of other customers. In exchange, the net metered customer receives a kilowatt-hour bill credit that can be used to offset the amount of electricity that the customer must purchase from a utility.

Net energy metering is used by more than 40,000 homeowners, hundreds of small and large businesses, and all sizes of public facilities, from schools to water district lands to DOD bases. California solar customers rely on net energy metering to get the full value of their solar generation over the course of the year. Net metering allows homes and businesses to reduce their electric bills and fix their solar power cost which is particularly helpful in these difficult economic times.

Existing law requires retail electric service providers, investor-owned utilities, cooperatives and most municipal utilities, to make net energy metering available to eligible customer-generators on a first-come-first-served basis until the total rated generating capacity of net metered systems exceeds 2.5% a retail electric service provider's "aggregate customer peak demand."

California has been a leader in renewable energy and was one of the first states to enact net energy metering legislation. In 2006, when the California legislature enacted the California Solar Initiative (CSI), it increased the state-wide net energy metering cap to 2.5% of a retail electric service provider's "aggregate customer peak demand." The net energy metering cap was increased in recognition of the fact that net energy metering would be necessary in order for the state to meet its CSI goals.

Most of the electricity that is generated on-site by a net energy metered customer is used on-site and is not fed onto the grid. This is particularly true for large solar systems installed by commercial customers that have significant and predictable on-site electricity needs during daytime hours. To the extent net metered systems serve on-site load and do not export, they act like on-site energy efficiency from the perspective of a utility and other utility ratepayers. Under the current method of calculating the net energy metering cap, capacity that serves on-site load and does not export is still counted towards the cap.

Of the 44 states that offer net metering, 18 have eliminated the cap on total net energy metered capacity. The Utah Public Service Commission just increased that state's cap to 20% of utility peak demand.

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If the existing 2.5% cap is not raised, California's ability to achieve its 3,000 MW CSI goal would be jeopardized.

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AB 560 (SKINNER)

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AB 560 (SKINNER)

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AB 560 (Skinner)
Net Energy Metering

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Removing unnecessary burdens placed on California's ability to meet its CSI goal including uninterrupted solar market growth after the successful completion of the CSI program, is the focus of AB 560. Increasing the California net energy metering cap to require that net energy metering be offered on a first-come-first-served basis until the time that the total rated generating capacity used by eligible customer-generators reaches an increased percent of an electric service provider's aggregate customer peak demand is one of the best strategies for all solar net metered customers including homeowners, small and large businesses and local and state governmental entities.

Support:

The Solar Alliance (Sponsor)
Applied Materials
Brightline Defense Project
California Building Industry Association (CBIA)
California Retailers Association
California Solar Energy Industries Association (Cal SEIA)
Comstock Homes
Conergy
Evergreen Solar
Global Green USA
Kyocera
Pacific Environment
Planning and Conservation League
Mainstream Energy
Sharp
Sierra Club
SolarCity
SolarWorld California

(cont. Support)
SPG Solar
Standard Pacific Homes
Union of Concerned Scientists
Woodside Homes of Northern California

Support if Amended:

Pacific Gas and Electric
Southern California Edison

Oppose unless Amended:

The Utility Reform Network (TURN)
Coalition of California Utility Employees
State Association of Electrical Workers

STAFF CONTACT

Liz Mooney at 319.2014

AB 560 (Skinner)
Net Energy Metering

ISSUE

Net energy metering is a simple billing arrangement that exists in 44 states for customers using on-site renewable energy, such as rooftop solar power systems. This billing arrangement permits eligible customer-generators to offset retail electricity purchases with all of the electricity generated on-site. Over a 12 month period, a customer has to pay only for the net amount of electricity supplied by a utility over-and-above the amount of electricity generated by an on-site renewable energy system.

Net energy metering helps customers smooth out differences between variable on-site demand and intermittent on-site generation. In doing so, net metering improves the economics of installing a solar system by allowing surplus power generated by the systems to be fed onto the electric grid for the benefit of other customers. In exchange, the net metered customer receives a kilowatt-hour bill credit that can be used to offset the amount of electricity that the customer must purchase from a utility.

Net energy metering is used by more than 40,000 homeowners, hundreds of small and large businesses, and all sizes of public facilities, from schools to water district lands to DOD bases. California solar customers rely on net energy metering to get the full value of their solar generation over the course of the year. Net metering allows homes and businesses to reduce their electric bills and fix their solar power cost which is particularly helpful in these difficult economic times.

Existing law requires retail electric service providers, investor-owned utilities, cooperatives and most municipal utilities, to make net energy metering available to eligible customer-generators on a first-come-first-served basis until the total rated generating capacity of net metered systems exceeds 2.5% a retail electric service provider's "aggregate customer peak demand."

California has been a leader in renewable energy and was one of the first states to enact net energy metering legislation. In 2006, when the California legislature enacted the California Solar Initiative (CSI), it increased the state-wide net energy metering cap to 2.5% of a retail electric service provider's "aggregate customer peak demand." The net energy metering cap was increased in recognition of the fact that net energy metering would be necessary in order for the state to meet its CSI goals.

Most of the electricity that is generated on-site by a net energy metered customer is used on-site and is not fed onto the grid. This is particularly true for large solar systems installed by commercial customers that have significant and predictable on-site electricity needs during daytime hours. To the extent net metered systems serve on-site load and do not export, they act like on-site energy efficiency from the perspective of a utility and other utility ratepayers. Under the current method of calculating the net energy metering cap, capacity that serves on-site load and does not export is still counted towards the cap.

Of the 44 states that offer net metering, 18 have eliminated the cap on total net energy metered capacity. The Utah Public Service Commission just increased that state's cap to 20% of utility peak demand.

AB 560 (SKINNER)

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